

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Marquette, Michigan

ngls@nglsynod.org

E-Notes for January 15, 2013

* THE EPIPHANY SEASON*

E-Notes is a twice monthly electronic newsletter from the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“QUOTE OF THE DAY”

“John the Baptist...sees the dove descend upon Jesus and tells others what he sees...Andrew later does the same.

He tells his brother what he and John’s other disciples saw -- the person they believe is the Messiah –

and invites Peter to come along and see for himself.

Could it be that simple?

At its heart, evangelism is noticing what God is doing in our lives, sharing that with others, and inviting them to come and see for themselves...

Notice. Share. Invite.

These are the three elements of evangelism, sharing the good news of what God has done and is still doing through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for us and all the world.”

~Dr. David Lose, www.workingpreacher.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Annual Meeting of Fortune Lake
Lutheran Camp

will be Sunday April 6.

Please email the names and email
addresses of delegates to
officemanager@fortunelake.org as soon
as they are selected.

**Breaking the Mold High school
Gathering**

and Youth Ministry Training Retreat

Feb. 28 - March 2, 2014

- For 9th - 12th graders and the
adults/pastors/volunteers who work with

them.

- At Fortune Lake, registration at 6:00pm CT Friday Feb. 28. Eat supper before coming.
- Cost: Only \$75 for adult/youth participant,
 - \$25 of which will be covered by a generous grant from the Northern Great Lakes Synod.
- Includes snacks, meals, programming, fun, games, worship, music, talent show
- Register online at fortunelake.org by Feb. 25.
- Questions? Call Fortune Lake or the Synod Office at 906-228-2300
- Bring outdoor shoes/boots and indoor shoes/slippers 😊

To Equip the Church Council:
Check out the following link
for 10 - 10minute webinars meant to teach

Church Councils how to lead.

<http://waytolead.org/resource/lead-10-minute-toolbox/>

Marked!

Marked! is an afternoon of service, learning, food and fun for Confirmation Youth.

You are encouraged to bring your Confirmation Youth to one of the following Marked! Events:

**March 16, 2014 at First,
Gladstone 4:00 – 7:00pm**

**March 23, 2014 at Our
Redeemer, Newberry 4:00 – 7:00pm**

**March 30, 2014 at United,
L'Anse 4:00 – 7:00pm**

**YOUR CONGREGATION SHOULD BE
COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- **Large bars of bath soap**
- **Fingernail clippers**
- **Bath sized and hand sized towels**
- **Combs**
- **Toothbrushes and toothpaste**
- **Deodorant and shampoo**

**CALLING ALL ENDOWMENT AND
MEMORIAL COMMITTEES
HOW CAN WE HELP OUR
CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES GROW?**

In January, Pastor Larry Westfield from the ELCA Foundation will be our guest in this synod. Pastor Westfield serves the six synods of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan of our Church and assists congregations and individuals in gift planning and the development of endowment funds. He will be leading two meetings on

two successive evenings to help our congregations as they develop and manage their Endowment and Memorial Funds. Pastor Westfield will discuss with you and others who attend, the many ways congregations can encourage members to support the ministry of the church in their estate plans. He is an expert on gift planning and the possibilities for ministry our congregations can take advantage of when they ask our members to remember the work of God's Church in their estate planning. Bishop Skrenes will also be in attendance at these meetings. Think about attending either:

January 22nd, Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET at Bethel Lutheran in Ishpeming

January 23rd, Thursday evening from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET at First Lutheran in Gladstone

This meeting is for all interested leaders in our congregations: Council members as well as Endowment and Memorial Fund Committee persons. The questions to be answered at these meetings are: “How can our congregations help our members to be excellent stewards of the resources entrusted to their care? How can we grow our congregational endowments for service to God and His people?”

It's a Celebration!!!

WHO: COME! All are welcome to a celebration for Lutheran Campus Ministry!

WHAT: Lisa Johnson, the new Campus Minister at Northern Michigan University, will be installed during the worship service.

Johnson served as Associate Director of Program Operations at Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, a summer camp, conference and retreat center for the Nebraska Synod, ELCA. She graduated from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska with a Bachelor's Degree in Youth and Family Ministry/Human Services and minors in Religion and Philosophy. Johnson has spent time in Tanzania co-facilitating and participating in Peer Ministry. She also studied abroad and lived in Cuernavaca, Mexico and spent time in El Salvador as part of a program through Augsburg College focusing on Women, Gender and Social Change, and Liberation Theology. She enjoys

the outdoors, being active and a good campfire. Lisa is from Albion, Nebraska. Her father is a teacher/head football coach and her mother is the school librarian. Lisa has one sister/brother-in-law and a new niece.

WHEN: Sunday, January 19th at 2:30 p.m. at NMU procession to Messiah with worship at 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: The processional will begin at the Peter White Lounge on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette, and end at Messiah Lutheran Church (305 W. Magnetic Street) for worship at 3:00 p.m. Clergy are invited to process. The color of the day is green. Following the service, we will join in a meal together at Messiah.

Mark your
calendar! February 16-17.

**SCHEDULE FOR BISHOP ELIZABETH
EATON IN THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES**

SYNOD BETHANY ESCANABA/UNITED CRYSTAL FALLS WINTER THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

On Sunday, February 16th

Bethany Lutheran Church in

Escanaba:

9:45 a.m. Eastern

Time Coffee Reception

10:45 a.m. Eastern

Time Bishop Eaton preaching at Sunday Worship
United Lutheran Church in Crystal

Falls:

1:30 p.m. Central

Time Forum and Reception

The above are open to the public. All are welcome!
The Winter Theological Conference for Professional Leaders
will feature ELCA Churchwide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.
Attendance by registration for rostered persons.

VOICES FOR YOUTH NEEDS OUR

HELP!

I have been informed by our friends at Lutheran Social Services that a very important ministry here in the synod is in special need during these winter months of 2013 and 2014. For the past twenty years, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Voices for Youth (VFY) Program has been providing comprehensive support services to at-risk, runaway, and homeless youth, ages 10-21, and their families. Presently, VFY delivers services to communities in Marquette, Alger, Delta, Dickinson, and Iron Counties in Michigan. VFY services have helped improve the lives of over 300 Upper Peninsula youth annually by assisting, teaching, and guiding them in making positive life choices leading to family reunification and maintaining constructive relationships, and helping them navigate the road to independence and self-sufficiency. **And now the problem!** The UP Voices for Youth program has been severely affected by the federal government sequester. Effectively this means that several months will go by before the government again renews their grant to the program. LSS is working to bridge the shortfall in support with donations and grants. To make this work for our ministry together, we need to provide about \$23,000 from local sources.

Can the Lutheran community make a difference? Can we rise up and support this social ministry, this ministry of mercy and hope? I fully realize that there are so many needs out there

in our communities and in our churches. But we are a blessed people who can make a difference. I encourage the pastors and lay leaders of our congregations to write a check themselves to the synod for this work and then encourage others in your church to do the same. It is a cold winter! There are homeless young people who need Voices for Youth and we need to support it! Send your offering and gifts to the synod. Make the check out to the Northern Great Lakes Synod and designate it “Voices for Youth.” We worship a Lord Jesus who was once homeless himself.

IRS SETS MILEAGE RATES FOR 2014

The Internal Revenue Service has issued its optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. On January 1, 2014, the standard mileage rates for the use of a vehicle will be: 56 cents per mile for business miles driven; 23.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and 14 cents

per mile driven in service of charitable organizations The business, medical, and moving expense rates decrease one-half cent from the 2013 rates.

Check out www.prayfaithfully.org for weekly “Breath Prayer” and Daily Devotions.

The synod website is www.nglsynod.org

**Coming January 31 – February 2,
2014**

The Clergy Spouse Retreat!

**Go to www.nglsynod.org for
registration info.**

Mark Your Calendars!

Synod Assembly will be May 18-19, 2014

(Sunday afternoon – Monday)

**at Northern Michigan University and Messiah Lutheran
Church in Marquette, MI.**

Many congregations select their voters at their annual meetings, so take a prayerful moment to decide if you might be interested in attending the assembly as a voter or visitor.

More details about the Assembly will be available online soon.

**Go to “The Northern Great Lakes Synod” page
And “like” us. 😊**

TRANSITIONS

+Congratulations to Camp Director Pastor Tracy Polzin and her husband, Mike, at the birth of their second daughter born on January 6, 2014. Annika Noelle joins big sister Lillianna. We pray God's blessings upon their growing family.

+Congratulations to Pastor Barb Girod as she accepted a new call to serve Mt. Morris Holden Lutheran Church and West Holden Lutheran Church in Wautoma, WI. May God bless her new efforts in ministry.

LIFTING UP TO GOD IN PRAYER

- + The Polzin family at the birth of a new child.**
- + New Lutheran Campus minister and Messiah Youth Director Lisa Johnson as she begins a new ministry partnership.**
- + Pastor Barb Girod as she begins a new call**
- + Our congregations as many prepare for annual meetings and complete year-end reports.**
- + The Synod Council as it meets January 24-25.**
- + Larry Westfield as he presents important information about Endowment possibilities, and those who come to hear him.**

Rev. Katherine Finegan

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